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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
**NEWS**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

NATIONAL  
OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 26, 2003

### **First Local Tsunami Statewide Exercise Set for April 1**

A simulated 7.6 earthquake on the Big Island is the cornerstone of the first ever statewide local tsunami drill held in Hawaii. Officials from NOAA's Richard H. Hagemeyer Pacific Tsunami Warning Center will initiate the practice session at 11:15 a.m. on April 1. The exercise will end at 11:53 a.m. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an agency of the Commerce Department.

Major players in the exercise include the NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu Forecast Office (HFO), U.S. Census Bureau, Hawaii State Civil Defense, all county civil defense agencies, and state and county warning points. All of the activities – including issuance of a warning, activation of the Emergency Alert System, sounding of sirens – will be invisible to the public. The simulated operations will test Hawaii's ability to respond to a locally generated tsunami and provide an opportunity for officials to review procedures.

**WHAT:** Statewide Local Tsunami Exercise and Media Availability

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 1

**WHERE:** Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, 91-270 Ft. Weaver Road, Ewa Beach  
Hawaii State Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center, Diamond Head  
Honolulu Forecast Office, Univ. of Hawaii HIG Bldg., Suite 250

**WHO:** Chip McCreery, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
Louis Kincannon, Director, U.S. Census Bureau (will be at PTWC)  
Ed Teixeira, Hawaii State Civil Defense  
Kevin Kodama, Honolulu Forecast Office  
others

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